

**REQUEST FOR  
CONTINUED EXAMINATION (RCE)  
TRANSMITTAL**

Subsection (b) of 35 U.S.C. § 132, effective on May 29, 2000 provides for continued examination of a utility or plant application filed on or after June 8, 1995.

See The American Inventors Protection Act of 1999 (AIPA)

Application Number: 09/651,323

Filing Date: August 31, 2000

First Named Inventor: Oscar Lee AVANT

Group Art Unit: 2876

Examiner: Ahshik KIM

Attorney Docket Number: 8049.0010-00

Attorney Customer Number: 22,852

RCE/2800  
OIPF  
APR 09 2003  
PATENT & TRADEMARK OFFICE  
#13  
4-7-03  
J. Antin

This is a Request for Continued Examination (RCE) under 37 C.F.R. § 1.114 of the above-identified application.

**Note:** 37 C.F.R. § 1.114 is effective on May 29, 2000. If the above-identified application was filed prior to May 29, 2000, applicant may wish to consider filing a continued prosecution application (CPA) under 37 C.F.R. § 1.53(d) instead of a RCE to be eligible for patent term adjustment provisions of the AIPA. See "Changes to Application Examination and Provisional Application Practice," Interim Rule, 65 Fed. Reg. 14865 (March 20, 2000). Off. Gaz. Pat. Office 47 (April 11, 2000), which established RCE practice.

**1. Submission required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.114:**

a. ☐ Previously submitted

- i. ☐ Consider the amendment(s)/reply after final under 37 C.F.R. § 1.116 previously filed on [Date] \_\_\_\_\_.
- ii. ☐ Consider the arguments in the Appeal Brief of Reply Brief previously filed on [Date] \_\_\_\_\_.
- iii. ☐ Other \_\_\_\_\_

b. ☒ Enclosed:

- i. ☒ Amendment/Reply
- ii. ☐ Affidavit(s)/Declaration(s)
- iii. ☒ Information Disclosure Statement
- iv. ☐ Other \_\_\_\_\_

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**2. Miscellaneous**

- a. ☐ Suspension of action on the above-mentioned application is requested under 37 C.F.R. § 1.103(c) for a period of [number] months. (Period of suspension shall not exceed 3 months; fee under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(i) required.)
- b. ☐ Other \_\_\_\_\_

**3. Fees**

a. ☒ The filing fee is calculated as follows:

- i. ☒ \$750.00 RCE fee required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(e)
- ii. ☒ Petition for extension of time for (3 Months) \$930.00
- iii. ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

b. ☒ Check in the amount of \$1680.00 enclosed.

c. ☒ The Commissioner is authorized to charge any deficiencies in the filing fees, or credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. 06-0916.

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750.00 OP

**Signature of Applicant, Attorney, or Agent Required**

Name: Lionel M. Lavenue

Reg. No.: 46,859

Signature:

*Lionel M Lavenue*

Date: April 9, 2003

**Certificate of Mailing or Transmission**

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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:

Oscar L. AVANT et al.

Application No.: 09/651,323

Filed: August 31, 2000

For: APPARATUS AND METHODS  
FOR IDENTIFYING A MAILPIECE  
USING AN IDENTIFICATION  
CODE

Group Art Unit: 2876

Examiner: Ahshik KIM

Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, DC 20231

Sir:

**AMENDMENT**

In reply to the Final Office Action dated October 15, 2002, the period for response being extended by the Petition for Extension of Time filed concurrently herewith, the period for response thereby extended to April 15, 2003, Applicants file herewith a Request for Continued Examination to submit this Amendment. Accordingly, please amend the application as follows:

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

Please amend claims 1, 18, 35, and 36 follows:

1. (Twice Amended) A method of identifying a plurality of mailpieces in a mailpiece sorting system, using identification codes corresponding to identification files, comprising the steps of:

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marking one of the plurality of mailpieces with an identification code that uniquely corresponds to the one mailpiece on the back of the one mailpiece;

B1  
cont.  
creating an identification file uniquely corresponding to the identification code and the one mailpiece, where the identification file may be accessed from a plurality of nodes on the mailpiece sorting system; and

using the identification code to retrieve identification information from the corresponding identification file at a plurality of nodes on the mailpiece sorting system.

B2  
18. (Twice Amended) A system for identifying a plurality of mailpieces in a mailpiece sorting system, using identification codes corresponding to identification files, comprising:

a marking component configured to mark one of the plurality of mailpieces with an identification code that uniquely corresponds to the one mailpiece on the back of the one mailpiece;

a creating component configured to create an identification file uniquely corresponding to the identification code and the one mailpiece, where the identification file may be accessed from a plurality of nodes on the mailpiece sorting system; and

a using component configured to use the identification code to retrieve identification information from the corresponding identification file at a plurality of nodes on the mailpiece sorting system.

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35. (Twice Amended) A system for identifying a plurality of mailpieces in a mailpiece sorting system, using identification codes corresponding to identification files, comprising:

means for marking one of the plurality of mailpieces with an identification code that uniquely corresponds to the one mailpiece on the back of the one mailpiece;

means for creating an identification file uniquely corresponding to the identification code and the one mailpiece, where the identification file may be accessed from a plurality of nodes on the mailpiece sorting system; and

means for using the identification code to retrieve identification information from the corresponding identification file at any node on the mailpiece sorting system.

36. (Twice Amended) A computer usable medium having computer readable code embodied therein for identifying a plurality of mailpieces in a mailpiece sorting system, the computer readable code comprising:

a marking module configured to mark one of the plurality of mailpieces with an identification code that uniquely corresponds to the one mailpiece on the back of the one mailpiece;

a creating module configured to create an identification file uniquely corresponding to the identification code and the one mailpiece, where the identification file may be accessed from a plurality of nodes on the mailpiece sorting system; and

a using module configured to use the identification code to retrieve identification information from the corresponding identification file at any node on the mailpiece sorting system.

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